the Sri Lankan Navy to avoid harassment of innocent fishermen. The issue was also discussed during the visits of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister in April, 1994 and again in December, 1994. The two Governments agreed on the need to devise mechanisms suitable to both sides and decided to hold further discussions for this purpose.

Mou with USA on Technology Transfer

2217. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding between India and the United States of America on the subject of "Dual and sensitive technology" was signed recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the last Memorandum of Understanding which took place in 1991 was reviewed, if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) in what manner the new Memorandum of Understanding is different from the previous one; and

(d) to what extent both the countries have signed MOU on transfer of sensitive technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Indian and US delegations met in Washington from November 7-9, 1994 for a review of the functioning of the 1984 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Export of Sensitive Commodities, Technologies and Technical Data. The last such review was held in 1991. The delegations did not discuss any new MOU. The review talks explored practical ways to improve the effectiveness of the 1984 MOU in facilitating bilateral trade in MOU items.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Relations between India and Pakistan

2218. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the deteriorating relations between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether Government proposes to establish better relations with Pakistan;

(c) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(d) the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Pakistan's support to terrorism and subversion directed against India its concerted campaign to internationalise Kashmir issue and its hostile propaganda directed against India in violation of the Simla Agreement cause tension and impede good neighbourly relations between the two countries.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government have repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan its readiness to resolve all outstanding issues between the two countries peacefully and through bilateral negotiations within the framework of the Simla Agreement. We are disappointed that a positive response is not available so far from Pakistan.

सिक्किम के भारत में विलय पर चीन की प्रतिक्रिया

2219. **श्री सत्यप्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत में सिक्किम राज्य के विलय पर चीन सरकार का क्या रुख है;

(ख) 'सिक्किम राज्य' भारतीय संघ का एक अविभाज्य अंग है, इस पर चीन की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि चीन सिक्किम के भारत में विलय का अनुमोदन नहीं करता है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या भारत सरकार ने इस मामले पर अपना कड़ा विरोध व्यक्त किया है अथवा नहीं ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया) : (क) से (ग) भारत में सिक्किम के विलय के संबंध में चीन की स्थिति का संकेत पिछले दिनों ही चीन के उप प्रधान मंत्री ने दिया था। बताया जाता है कि 18 जुलाई, 1994 को नई दिल्ली में एक संवाददाता सम्मेलन में उन्होंने एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में यह कहा था कि इस समय चीन यह नहीं कह रहा है कि वे उस स्थिति पर कायम हैं जो उन्होंने 1970 के दशक में अपनायी थी। यद्यपि, चीन ने कोई विशेष परिवर्तन नहीं किया है और दोनों पक्ष बातचीत कर रहे हैं।

(घ) कई अवसरों पर चीनी प्राधिकारियों को इस बात से अवगत कराया जाता रहा है कि सिक्किम भारत का एक अभिन्न अंग है।

New Immigration Rules of Britain

2220. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Britain had framed stricter new immigration rules which came into effect on 1st October, 1994;

(b) whether visitors from the Indian subcontinent have particularly been adversely affected by them;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any initiative to persuade the British Government to suitably modify their immigration rules so that the interests of the Indian immigrants are not harmed in any way; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Government are aware of a document entitled "Statement of changes in Immigration Rules" issued by the British Home Office which consolidates regulations relating to "control before entry" and "control after entry" and came into effect from 1 October, 1994. The only significant changes in British Immigration Rules flow from the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Legislation passed by the British Parliament which came into effect from 26 July, 1993. Under this Legislation, the right of appeal against refusal of visa for short term visitors (upto six months) and prospective students and their dependants was withdrawn. The right of appeal for long term visitors and those applying to settle in the UK remains in force. The Legislation also provides for speedier disposal of Asylum cases to be able to identify unfounded applications and fraudulent cases.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Our concerns regarding these new regulations were projected at various levels to the British authorities in 1992 and 1993. Government have been assured that the UK has no desire to restrict the number of visitors or students entering that country and that the provisions of the new regulations will have no effect on the grant of visas to bonafide short term visitors and students from India to the UK. The British authorities have introduced procedures to maintain and reinforce the fairness of the decision making process at their diplomatic missions.

Nuclear Threat from China

2221. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China had conducted its 41st nuclear test at Lopnor in Xinjiang in October, 1994;

(b) whether China intends to refine and modernise its arsenal inspite of the nuclear test moratorium observed by the other four nuclear weapon powers;

(c) whether China has more than 300 nuclear weapons of which only 28 can reach the U.S. and the rest can only pose a threat to countries in China's neighbourhood: and

(d) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to update its nuclear technology to counter any probable nuclear threat from any country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): Yes, Sir.

(b) Reports from China and elsewhere indicate that China is engaged in modernising its nuclear arsenal;

(c) Government cannot confirm the exact number of nuclear weapons that China posseses;

(d) Government keep under constant review all developments which have a bearing on the country's security and take the appropriate measures required.

Bangladeshi Organisations send Terrorists to Kashmir

2222. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the activities of some organisations in Bangladesh which propose to send nearly 3,000 persons as terrorists to Kashmir;

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with Government of Bangladesh; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Government have seen press reports to this effect and continue to remain vigilant in the matter.

Time limit for Issuance of Passports

2223. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passports to Indian Nationals are issued within some specified time limit in such cases where Character Verification Certificates issued by authorised officials of State and Central Government;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether such requests are subjected to any Police Verification;

(d) if so, details thereof with reasons for doubting the integrity of officials of Government despite being authorised;